Then, too, the system was dependent on an hereditary imperial house. The keystone of the arch was the Emperor. If he were strong, stability was sure. When, however, as is inevitable in the course of any family, weaklings came to the fore, the entire structure weakened and eventually collapsed.

The downfall of the Han did not entirely undo the work of that dynasty and its predecessor. To the ideas, the literature, and the institutions of tie period later generations recurred again and again. Even to-day the Chinese proudly call themselves *Han Jen,* "the men of Han." No radically different political system was seriously tried until the twentieth century. The China of the next two millenniums had been born. The Chinese Empire had made its appearance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The chief Chinese source for the Ch'in is Ssu-ma Ch'ien's *Shih Chi* The *Shih Chi* continues into the reign of Wu Ti of the Former Han. This and the *Ch'ien Han Shu,* the famous work by the Pan family, noted above, are standard for the Former Han. For the Former Han there is also the *Han Chi,* or Han Annals, by Hsiin Yiieh (A.D. 148-209), arranged by years, on the plan of the *Tso Chuan.* For the Later Han, the *Hou Han Shu,* compiled by Fan Yen, of the fifth century, is the major authority (although inferior to the *Ch'ien Han Shu].* Much of the portions of the *Shih Chi* which deal with the Ch'in and the Han has been translated by E. Chavannes, in *Les Memoires Historiques de Se-ma Ts'ien* (5 vols., Paris, 1895-1905). Chavannes' great work is not only a translation but also contains extensive prolegomena, notes, and appendices. Among these are extremely valuable essays on the lives of Ssii-ma Ch'ien and of his father, on the sources of the *Shih Chi,* the history of the reign of Wu Ti, the administrative organization of the Ch'in and the Han, and possible connections between Greek and Chinese music. An important translation of portions of the *Ch'ien Han Shu,*

with valuable introductions, notes, and appendices, is H. H. Dubs, *The History of the Former Han Dynasty, by Pan Ku* (Baltimore, 2 vols., 1938, 1944). On the *Ch'ien Han Shu* see also C. B. Sargent, *Subsidized History. Pan Ku and the Historical Records of the Former Han Dynasty (The Far Eastern Quarterly,* Vol. 3, pp. 119-143).

As for the second chapter, so for the third, the most voluminous general histories in Western languages are de Mailla, *Histoire Generate de la Chine,* H. Cordier, *Histoire Generate de la Chine,* and L. Wieger, *Textes Historiques* (2 vols., Hochienfu, 1903, 1904)—which is based upon standard Chinese histories but is decidedly uncritical. Useful